

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Civilini Massimo

Serial No. 10/603,382

Examiner: Suglo, Janet L

Confirmation No. 2846

Filed: June 24, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2857

For: ELECTRONIC COMPONENT RELIABILITY DETERMINATION  
SYSTEM AND METHOD

Date: September 10, 2007

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

Responsive to the interview conducted on September 6, 2007, please accept the following statement regarding the substance of the telephonic interview between attorney Michael Cofield and Examiners Janet Suglo and Jeff West.

During the telephone interview the amendment filed on August 27, 2007 was discussed. An agreement was reached with respect to claim 1 that the Quest reference (US Patent 6,199,018) does not disclose the feature of communicating with the monitored devices while the monitored device is in field operation for determining... an expected communication capacity threshold, as well as other features associated with this feature.

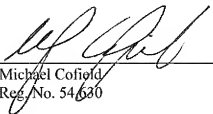
During the telephone interview, the feature of outputting a field adjusted MTBF as recited in claim 27 was discussed. The Examiners clarified that the expected lifetime output by Quist's monitoring device is alleged to be the outputted field-adjusted MTBF of claim 27. Applicant disagrees because other references discussed during the telephone interview state that an expected lifetime is different than an MTBF, and both have different uses. The Examiners agreed to review additional references to make a determination whether an expected lifetime is different than an MTBF.

During the telephone interview, the Examiners clarified that the expected lifetime output by Quist's monitoring device is alleged to be the outputted instantaneous failure rate of claim 1. Applicant disagrees because a lifetime is not a failure rate as explained in the amendment filed on August 27, 2007. Although the Examiners tentatively agreed with Applicant on this point, additional review of Quist would be needed to reach a final agreement. The Examiners agreed to

initiate an additional telephone interview with Attorney Michael Cofield if the Quist reference continues to be cited in a rejection of this feature.

Respectfully submitted,

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